

JAN 29 1973

## NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20418

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

January 26, 1973

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Genetics Department  
School of Medicine  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

President Philip Handler has asked me to inform you about the first major step to be taken toward the complete reorganization of the National Research Council. This will be the establishment of the Assembly of Behavioral and Social Sciences, effective through the appointment of its Chairman and Executive Committee as of February 1, 1973, and the consequent disappearance of the present Division of Behavioral Sciences, for which I have been serving as Chairman since July of last year.

The Terms of Reference for the new Assembly, a copy of which is enclosed, are designed to assure effective articulation between the membership of the Academy and this constituent part of the NRC. This objective is in part realized in the composition of the Assembly's first Executive Committee. As you will see from the enclosed list, six of its twelve members, not counting myself, are Academy members. Further articulation is encouraged by a number of provisions in the Terms of Reference, particularly that (II.3), dealing with the initial membership of the Assembly, which states that it "shall be drawn," among other sources, also "from among the members of the National Academy of Sciences who declare their desire and willingness to accept the responsibilities of membership in the Assembly."

Four Academy Sections had been linked with the Division by virtue of the fact that each designates one "representative member" of the Division. These four Sections are Anthropology, Psychology, Genetics, and Applied Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

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It is my privilege to ask the members of these Sections, as well as of the new Section of Social, Economic, and Political Sciences, to consider with care the purposes of the Assembly and the criteria for membership (stated in II.2 of the Terms of Reference) and to let me know whether he or she wishes to be appointed a member of the new Assembly. It goes without saying that the Assembly's intellectual and manpower resources would be enhanced if a significant number of Academy members were present in its membership.

If you are prepared to declare your "desire and willingness to accept the responsibilities of membership in the Assembly," I hope that you will let me know as soon as possible. The Assembly Executive Committee will be dealing with membership questions when it meets for the first time on February 10.

If you feel that additional information about the Assembly of Behavioral and Social Sciences, or about the obligations of membership, would be helpful, do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert McC. Adams', written in a cursive style.

Robert McC. Adams  
Chairman Designate  
Assembly of Behavioral and  
Social Sciences

cc: Dr. Philip Handler